

Application No.: 10/705,665

Docket No.: 21581-00240-US1

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please substitute the following paragraph(s) for the abstract now appearing in the currently filed specification:

[This invention provides a process for producing a 5-hydroxy-3-oxopentanoic acid, a useful pharmaceutical intermediate, easily from a readily available, inexpensive starting material without using any extraordinary production equipment such as a very-low temperature reactor.

Thus, this invention provides a process for producing a 5-hydroxy-3-oxopentanoic acid

which comprises permitting a lithium amide to act upon

a mixture of an acetic acid ester and a 3-hydroxypropionic acid derivative at not below -20°C.

Further, this invention also provides a process for producing a 5-hydroxy-3-oxopentanoic acid

which comprises treating a mixture of an acetic acid ester and a 3-

hydroxypropionic acid derivative with a Grignard reagent to prepare a mixture of a compound and an acetic acid ester of the above formula (I),

and permitting a lithium amide to act upon the mixture at a temperature not below -20°C.]

This invention provides a process for producing a 5-hydroxy-3-oxopentanoic acid, a useful pharmaceutical intermediate, easily from a readily available, inexpensive starting material without using any extraordinary production equipment such as a very-low temperature reactor. Thus, this invention provides a process for producing a 5-hydroxy-3-oxopentanoic acid which comprises permitting a lithium amide to act upon a mixture of an acetic acid ester and a 3-hydroxypropionic acid derivative at not below -20°C. Further, this invention also provides a process for producing a 5-hydroxy-3-oxopentanoic acid which comprises treating a mixture of an acetic acid ester and a 3-hydroxypropionic acid derivative with a Grignard reagent to prepare a mixture of a compound and an acetic

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acid ester of the above formula (I), and permitting a lithium amide to act upon the mixture at a temperature not below -20°C.